

**DEMOGRAPHIC DESCRIPTION**

The historic town of Rye, located in Rockingham County, and its sister beachfront community of Rye Beach, stretch along eight of New Hampshire's eighteen miles of coastline. Inland from the varied coastline of numerous beaches are two state parks and two state beaches, which are paralleled by more than one thousand acres of salt marsh and wetlands.

Rye is a semi-rural community with a population that has grown from 5,182 in 2000 to 5,214 in 2006. The 2006 census states that the number of summer residents is close to 8,000. The 2007/2008 school district census counted 1,039 children under the age of eighteen.

Rye has a commercial/industrial corridor along US Route 1, and in-town there is a desirable variety of small local business ventures ranging from dining establishments to family run commercial fishing operations. Most of the population is employed in surrounding towns and northern Massachusetts. During the summer months, the tourist industry is a major part of Rye’s economy.

The School district is comprised of two schools, Rye Elementary School and Rye Junior High School.

## Rye Junior High School has a teaching staff of 24 full time teachers, 4 part time teachers and 7 paraprofessionals working with 200 students in grades 6 through 8. Rye has an area agreement with Portsmouth High School and most of the students attend Portsmouth High School with approximately 25 - 30 per cent going on to private schools.

## Rye Elementary School has 37 teachers and 12 paraprofessional staff working with 321 students in grades K-5.

Both buildings went through major additions/renovations in 1997. New classrooms, science labs and a computer lab were added at that time.